THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MANIK RAO GAVIT): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (f) 'Police' and 'Public Order' are State subjects under the seventh schedule to the Constitution of India. Hence, the primary responsibility of prevention, detection, registration, investigation and prosecution of crime, including crimes against women and children lies with the State Government. State Governments are also primarily responsible for maintaining public order and thus providing an atmosphere in which all people including women feel safe and secured. However, the Union Government has from time to time issued advisories to the State Governments to give more focused attention to improving the administration of criminal justice system and take such measures as are necessary for the prevention of crimes against all vulnerable sections of the society, including women. Union government also supplements the efforts of the State Governments by providing financial assistance for modernization of the State Police Forces in terms of weaponry, communication, equipment, mobility, training and other infrastructure under the Scheme of Modernization of State Police Forces with a view to enhancing their capabilities to fight crime and maintain public order.

Subsequent to the incident of criminal assault and murder of a call centre employee at Bangalore, Secretary in the Ministry of Labour & Employment, wrote a letter to the "Chief Secretaries of the States where Information Technology (IT)/Business Process Outsourcing (BPO) services are established, for taking all necessary steps to ensure the safety and security of women workers working in the night shifts.

Further, the National Commission for Women convened an inter-active meeting on 17.1.2006 with the representatives of the BPO companies, call centres and concerned police authorities of Delhi/Gurgaon/Noida to discuss the various issues related to the problems of women working in BPOs/call centres. Based on the discussions, the Commission has formulated guidelines for ensuring the safety of women employees in BPO companies and call centres.

Special cell to maintain law and orders situation in Bihar

†2654. SHRI SHATRUGHAN SINHA: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the comment made by High Court, Patna wherein Central Government have been asked

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

that whether any special cell can be opened for Bihar in order to keep strict vigilance on law and order situation in the State;

(b) whether any statement has been received from the State Government in this regard; and

(c) if so, Government's view point in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI SHRIPRAKASH JAISWAL): (a) and (b) In the wake of the Jehanabad Jail-break incident (13.11.2005), the Patna High Court, in a public interest petition, observed whether, in view of the prevalent naxal situation in the State, special status be considered for Bihar by placing the State under Special Secretary (IS) in the Ministry of Home Affairs.

(c)Maintenance of public order and peace and law & order being in the domain of the State Government the action, security or otherwise, entirely lies with the State Governments to control the naxalite menance. This approach is in line with the scheme of the Constitution and the principle of federalism enshrined in the Constitution.

However, the Central Government views the naxalite menace as a matter of serious concern and has, therefore, been supplementing and coordinating the efforts and resources of the State Government on both security and development fronts so as to enable them to successfully combat the naxalite menance.

In view of the above, the Government is of the opinion that it may not be in order to accord special status to the Bihar for providing various kinds of assistance by placing the State under Special Secretary (Internal Security), Ministry of Home Affairs, Government of India. However, the Central Government remains committed to providing all possible assistance to the naxal affected States to meet the challenge posed by naxalism. The Central Government has been supplementing the resources of the Government of Bihar in dealing with the naxal situation in terms of provision of Central Police Forces, sharing of intelligence inputs, grant of development funds etc.

Compensation to persons killed/injured in road accidents

2655. SHRI LALIT SURI : Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of court cases for the payment of compensation in respect